



January 2001

# VOTING INFORMATION NEWS

Vol. 11 No. 1

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)



For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

## U.S. Citizens Encouraged to Complete the 2000 Post-election Survey

Your opinion of the absentee voting process matters to the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)! It also matters to the President and Congress. The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) requires the FVAP to provide a report to the President and Congress on the effectiveness of assistance provided to covered citizens. This report must include a statistical analysis of voter participation and a description of Federal-State cooperation and must be submitted not later than the year after a Presidential election. The survey will also be used by the FVAP to identify areas where the absentee voting process or voting assistance may be improved. Participation is strictly voluntary and anonymous and results will be used to help improve the absentee voting process.

During the week of November 6, a random sample of U.S. citizens covered under the UOCAVA received the 2000 Post-election Survey by mail. Survey participants are selected on a statistically random sample basis from five target groups of U.S. citizens: members of the U.S. military, federally employed civilians residing outside the U.S., citizens outside the U.S. with no U.S. Government affiliation, unit voting assistance officers and local election officials.

This year, for the first time, participants have the option of filling out the paper version of the survey or responding to the survey over the Internet. The web site access information is provided on the survey mailed to each citizen in the sample. The survey participant receives an access code to log on to the website, which is printed on the back of the questionnaire. We strongly urge the use of the electronic version of the survey because it takes less time to complete than the paper version.

advantage of technology to more effectively and efficiently assist U.S. citizens. In keeping with this goal, the survey has been designed to allow survey participants to complete and submit their questionnaire on-line and to transmit responses over the Internet. We view expansion of the Survey to include on-line submission as a way boost survey response.

We encourage everyone who receives a survey to complete it and return it promptly. Only people involved in collecting or preparing the information for analysis will have access to completed questionnaires and only group statistics will be reported.

### Survey Provides Valuable Information

The survey questionnaire includes questions on individuals' experiences in registering and voting during the 2000 election year. It is an essential tool in evaluating the level of assistance provided, identifying potential problems in the absentee voting process and determining trends

in voting participation by the target populations. Results of the survey are used by FVAP to encourage amendments to state laws and procedures to facilitate absentee voting, to make improvements in existing voting assistance services and to develop new avenues of voting assistance. As stated above, FVAP also submits a formal report to the President and Congress based on the survey results. If you have received a questionnaire regarding your voting experience in 2000, please take the few minutes necessary to complete the form and promptly return it, following the instructions included with the questionnaire. Your efforts

to complete the questionnaire will further facilitate absentee voting for military and overseas citizens. (See 2000 Post Election Survey, pg.3)

The Gallup Organization is conducting the survey for FVAP.

One principal goal of the FVAP is to take

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# Stateside

## Wisconsin Enfranchises Voting Age Children of Overseas Citizens

In the 2000 General Election, Wisconsin Voters ratified a law the Wisconsin Legislature had passed which gives children of overseas citizens the right to vote, upon becoming legal voting age, even when they have never resided in the U.S. These

citizens must have a parent who has a voting residence in Wisconsin and who are eligible to vote in the state. Seven other states; Georgia, Iowa, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island and Tennessee have similar legislation in place.

## California Announces 32nd Congressional District Special Primary Election on April 10, 2001 and Special General Election on June 5, 2001

The State of California has scheduled a Special Election for Tuesday, April 10, 2001 in the 32nd Congressional District to identify candidates for the vacant seat resulting from the death of Congressman Julian Dixon. A Special General Election will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2001 to fill this seat.

All members of the Armed Forces, their family members, and overseas citizens who are California residents from the 32nd District should register and request a ballot for the April 10 Special Primary Election and the June 5 Special General Election by completing and submitting a Federal Post Card Application (SF-76) as soon as possible but no later than March 10, 2001. Election officials will begin mailing ballots approximately 29 days prior to the elections. Ballots should be voted and returned as soon as they are received.

You may return the completed FPCA by fax. Electronically transmitted election materials must be transmitted through 800-

368-8683, (703) 693-5527 or DSN (military) 223-5527. It is imperative that all voters provide a return transmission commercial fax number on all documents sent electronically. Voters are advised to consult Appendix D of the 2000-01 Voting Assistance Guide when using this method.

The DoD Voting Information Center (VIC) provides recorded messages from candidates, as well as other information concerning elections. Citizens may reach the VIC toll-free from 55 countries using the toll-free numbers listed on the FVAP website, [www.fvap.ncr.gov](http://www.fvap.ncr.gov). In the U.S. call 800-438-VOTE (8683) or local (703) 588-1343 or use DSN (military) 425-1343 to hear these messages. The VIC is operational 24 hours a day. Rotary and overseas callers can access the VIC by voicing their responses with the system's speech recognition feature. Voting Assistance Officers may also contact their Service and State Department Voting Action Officers through the VIC.

**Follow the links from the FVAP website at [www.fvap.ncr.gov](http://www.fvap.ncr.gov) for additional information about legislative and election news in your state.**

### Federal Voting Assistance Program

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**Write To:** Federal Voting Assistance Program  
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**Note:** Copying or using VIN articles in other publications, etc. is encouraged.



## USO Serves UOCAVA Citizens

For nearly 60 years, the United Service Organizations (USO) have "Delivered America" to America's military personnel. The USO is chartered by the Congress as a non-profit charitable corporation, it is not a part of the United States Government. It is endorsed by the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense. Each President has been the Honorary Chairman of the USO since its inception.

When the men and women of our Armed Forces are deployed around the world, the USO is "in the trenches" with them immediately, providing temporary USO centers, cellular telephones, computer and email access and special entertainment. During times of conflict or peacekeeping, the USO is alongside today's expeditionary military forces.

The USO mission is to provide morale, welfare and recreation-type services to uniformed services personnel. The original intent of Congress—and enduring style of USO delivery—is to represent the American people by extending a "Touch of Home" to their military members.

The USO has nearly 120 USO Centers around the world to include Germany, Italy, France, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Iceland, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Okinawa, Korea, and the Virgin Islands. There are 33 independent affiliated USO corporations located throughout the United States.

The USO serves an average of over 5,000,000 patrons annually.

Visit a USO near you where they can also provide you with absentee voting information. They have also included a link to the FVAP Home Page from their Web Site: [www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org).

☆☆

(2000 Post-Election Survey, from Page 1) The FVAP needs to know about your experiences in voting and the survey is an excellent forum for you to do that. However, if you did not receive an official survey form but would still like to share your voting-related experiences with the FVAP, please feel free to submit your comments to this office. Your letter should include the names of the individual, organization, phone number, e-mail address, and the names of the Unit and Installation Voting Assistance Officers. This information can be sent to [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov).

In the past, survey feedback has helped the FVAP to make progress on your behalf in areas such as:

- helping to provide round trip ballot transit time of 45 days or more;
- elimination of notary requirements;
- allowing for electronic transmission (faxing) of election materials;
- making improvements in existing voter assistance services such as implementation of the DoD Voting Information Center; and
- developing and utilizing information systems such as the World Wide Web and the Internet to access voting information.

**Attention overseas citizens:** Survey forms are distributed at random to overseas citizens registered with their local Embassy/Consulate. Therefore, **you must be registered with your local Embassy/Consulate in order to have the possibility of receiving a survey instrument.** Please contact the embassy/consulate in the country where you live (a list is available through the State Department web site at [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)) for more information.

### VOTING ACTION OFFICERS

#### **Department of State: Office of American Citizens Services**

Voting Action Officer: Mr. Stuart Denyer **tel:** (202) 647-3495 **tel FTS:** 8-647-6060, **fax:** (202) 647-6201  
**E-mail:** [DenyerSR@state.gov](mailto:DenyerSR@state.gov)

#### **Service Voting Action Officers**

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**World Wide Web:** <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ccprog/VOTING/VOTING.htm>

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**E-mail:** [jcreighton@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:jcreighton@comdt.uscg.mil)

All of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP Website [www.fvap.ncr.gov](http://www.fvap.ncr.gov)

**Please share this copy of VIN with others.**

## The FVAP Learns Much From a Successful Voting Over the Internet Project!

A small-scale Voting Over the Internet pilot project was conducted during the 2000 election cycle. The Federal Voting Assistance Program sponsored the test in association with state and county governments. In the test, volunteer service members from around the world registered and voted using the World Wide Web.

"Voting Over the Internet" is easier to say than to pull off. The contents of the voted ballots must be secret, secure and protected from tampering. The pilot system was designed to mirror the existing paper ballot system -- including signatures.

The pilot was built securely on initiatives already afoot within DoD. Public Key Infrastructure allows for secure transmission, identification, authentication and non-repudiation by use of digital signatures. Voting officials used this to mimic the steps required of the paper ballots.

The FVAP worked closely with the officials in the volunteer counties in South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Florida who participated in the 2000 program. Localities were limited to 50 eligible voters from each site to participate. This was a proof-of-concept demonstration and was not set up for mass voting or to increase voter turnout.

Third-party testers performed rigorous testing on every aspect of the process. The testers passed the system, and state and county

officials were able to process the final votes. Participants received directions on how to download the necessary software and how to get their digital signatures via the DoD Public Key Infrastructure. Voters could send in their electronic ballots any time after the ballots were made available up until the state deadlines for close of polls. Voters came from all five armed services. The first vote was cast by a Marine on October 12, 2000, and went to Weber County, Utah. Votes from participants continued to arrive until just before the close of polls on election day.

A quick after-action review indicates the system worked well. There was no ballot tampering and the votes remained secret. Comments from the participants showed

they were satisfied with the process, with one voter calling it a "snap."

The Federal Voting Assistance Program is preparing a report about the Voting Over the Internet pilot project which will be available in April.



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**over the**  
**INTERNET**

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